

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. - 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of 18 to 120 nucleotides wherein the sequence of the nucleic acid comprises:

- (a) at least 18 consecutive nucleotides of ~~VGR3152~~ SEQ ID NO: 46759,  
wherein ~~VGR3152 encodes VGAM 1930 and VGAM 1931;~~
- (b) an RNA equivalent of (a);
- (c) a sequence at least 34/58 identical to (a) or (b); or
- (d) the complement of any one of (a)-(c).

22. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the at least 18 nucleotides is of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 1916 and 1917.

23. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the at least 18 nucleotides is of a sequence selecting from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 4641 and 4642.

24. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid consists of 18 to 24 nucleotides.

25. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the sequence of the nucleic acid consists of:

- (a) SEQ ID NO: 46759;
- (b) an RNA equivalent of (a);
- (c) a sequence at least 34/58 nucleotides identical to (a) or (b); or
- (d) the complement of any one of (a)-(c).

26. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the at least 18 nucleotides is of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 1916 and 1917.

27. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the at least 18 nucleotides is of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 4641 and 4642.

28. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the nucleic acid consists of 18 to 24 nucleotides.

29. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

30. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

31. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid is capable of modulating expression of a target gene.

32. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 30, wherein the nucleic acid is capable of modulating expression of a target gene.

33. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 15/24 complementary to a binding site sequence of 18 to 24 nucleotides of a target gene and wherein the binding site sequence is located in an untranslated region of RNA encoded by the target gene.

34. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 32, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 15/24 complementary to a binding site sequence of 18 to 24 nucleotides of a target gene and wherein the binding site sequence is located in an untranslated region of RNA encoded by the target gene.

35. (new) A vector comprising an insert, wherein the insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 21.

36. (new) A vector comprising an insert, wherein an insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 25.

37. (new) A probe comprising insert, wherein an insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 21.

38. (new) A probe comprising an insert, wherein an insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 25.

39. (new) A gene expression inhibition system comprising the vector of claim 35 and a means for inserting said vector into a cell.

40. (new) A gene expression inhibition system comprising the vector of claim 36 and a means for inserting said vector into a cell.